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REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview in person with the Examiner on October 8, 2003.

Claims 1, 2, and 14-33 are pending in connection with the subject application. Claims 1, 14, and 22 are in independent form.

As discussed during the October 8, 2003 interview, the claimed invention provides for substantially completely compensating for reflection of light that has previously been scattered by the particles. Independent claims 1, 14, and 22 have been amended to more clearly recite this feature. Claims 2, 15-18 and 24 have also been amended to clarify the claimed invention and to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Support for the claim amendments may be found in the application at, inter alia, page 21, lines 17-20, and page 25, lines 5-7. Applicants maintain that no new matter is presented by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In Section 3 of the May 30, 2003 Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 14-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,796,480 to Igushi (hereinafter "Igushi '480").

As discussed during the October 8, 2003 interview, Igushi '480 merely discloses a conventional apparatus for calculating particle size distribution which detects scattering from forward-going light, based on the Mie theory. Such conventional techniques do not, however, provide for substantially completely

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compensating for reflection of light that has previously been scattered by the particles, as provided for the claimed invention recited in amended claims 1, 14 and 22. Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner during the October 8, 2003 interview, the claimed invention recited in amended claims 1, 14 and 22 is patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2 and 14-33 are now in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the telephone number provided below.

If a petition for an additional extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

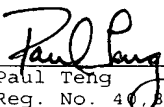
No fee, other than the enclosed \$770.00 RCE filing fee and \$420.00 fee for the two-month extension of time, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

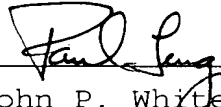
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Applicants earnestly solicit the allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

 October 29, 2003
Paul Teng Date
Reg. No. 40,837


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